

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. OR-93

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Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff, Tunnel 5
Milepost 545.21
McCrèdie Springs Vicinity
Lanc County
Oregon

For written information regarding Tunnel 5, please refer to Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff (HAER No. CA-217). Note also that all references to tunnel portals are given in Southern Pacific Railroad terminology. Headquartered in San Francisco, the SP considered all trains heading *away* from San Francisco to be eastbound, all trains heading *toward* San Francisco to be westbound, regardless of actual cardinal direction. Thus a train heading north from Los Angeles to Portland would be westbound until it passed San Francisco, at which time it would become eastbound. Similarly, the railroad referred to all tunnels and other structures along its lines in the same fashion, with tunnels always having west and east portals. Direction of view in the captions will indicate cardinal direction.

Documentation: 6 photographs (1997)

Ed Andersen, Photographer
John Snyder, Field Director

PHOTOGRAPHS

- OR-93-1 West portal of the mudshed abutting the west portal of Tunnel 5, view to the northwest, 135mm lens. The flat-roofed reinforced concrete mudsheds, rocksheds, and snowsheds are a common feature of the Natron Cutoff over the summit of the Cascades. With the railroad located on a sidehill bench cut into the precipitous slopes, the sheds protect the track from rock and mud slides, as well as from avalanches. With a solid wall on the uphill side and a series of columns on the downhill side, they form a gallery-like effect from within. This mudshed was built concurrent with the tunnel, in 1927. Though none of the mudsheds on the line are scheduled to be modified, this shed was documented as an integral element of Tunnel 5.
- OR-93-2 View to the east-southeast from within the mudshed toward its portal, 135mm lens with electronic flash fill.
- OR-93-3 Downhill side of the mudshed, contextual view to the south showing the steep slopes typical of this portion of the Natron Cutoff, 135mm lens.
- OR-93-4 West portal of Tunnel 5, view to the northwest from within the mudshed, 135mm lens with electronic flash fill.
- OR-93-5 East portal of Tunnel 5, contextual view to the northeast from the west end of Cruzette Siding, 210mm lens.
- OR-93-6 East portal of Tunnel 5, view to the east, 210mm lens with electronic flash fill.